

HOUSE BILL 2344
By McDonald

AN ACT to name a bridge in the City of Portland in honor of the late Thomas Anthony Utley.

WHEREAS, from time to time, this General Assembly has seen fit to name certain highways and bridges to honor those outstanding public servants who during their lifetimes distinguished themselves as invaluable assets to their respective communities; and

WHEREAS, the late Thomas Anthony "Tony" Utley was renowned among his fellow citizens as a compassionate person and dedicated professional; and

WHEREAS, Tony Utley lived in the City of Portland for most of his 58 years, and he served that fair city with singular ability and the utmost dedication; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Utley was a graduate of Portland High School, and he married his wife and raised his family in Portland; and

WHEREAS, he also worked in Portland as an employee of the Sumner County Education System for several years; and

WHEREAS, perhaps his most distinguished public service was his three-term tenure on the Portland City Council, during which he served one term as Vice-Mayor; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Utley was also a valuable employee of the Tennessee Department of Transportation from 1968 to 1975, serving as a bridge designer; he designed the State Route 52 East overpass bridge in the City of Portland; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Utley passed from this life to a far better existence on October 27, 2001, leaving behind a legacy of public service that will not soon be equaled and a void that will not be easily filled; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Board of Alderman of the City of Portland have petitioned this Body to name the bridge spanning State Route 52 East as a lasting tribute to Thomas Anthony "Tony" Utley, one of the finest citizens the City of Portland has ever produced; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly most heartily concurs in this excellent proposal; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the State Route 52 East overpass bridge in the City of Portland in Sumner County is hereby designated as the "Thomas Anthony Utley Memorial Bridge" in memory of this stalwart public servant and remarkable human being.

SECTION 2. The department of transportation is directed to erect suitable signs or to affix suitable markers designating such bridge as the "Thomas Anthony Utley Memorial Bridge".

SECTION 3. The erection of such signs shall be within the guidelines prescribed by the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

SECTION 4. This act shall become operative only if the federal highway administrator advises the commissioner of transportation in writing that the provisions of this act shall not render Tennessee in violation of federal laws and regulations and subject to penalties prescribed therein.

SECTION 5.

(1) This act shall become operative only if the City of Portland in Sumner County, Tennessee, either remits the estimated cost of the erection of such signs to the department of transportation within one (1) year of the effective date of this act or manufactures such signs in accordance with the provisions of subdivision (2). The City of Portland shall make such payment prior to any expenditure by the state for the manufacture or installation of such signs. The department shall return any unused portion of the estimated cost to the City of Portland within thirty (30) days of the erection of such signs. If the actual cost exceeds the estimated cost, the City of Portland shall remit an amount equal to the difference in such costs to the department within thirty (30) days of receiving an itemized invoice of the actual cost from the department.

(2) The City of Portland may manufacture and erect such signs provided that such signs are manufactured and erected pursuant to state and federal guidelines and approved by the department.

SECTION 6. This act shall take effect July 1, 2002, the public welfare requiring it.